

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 NEAE-00 /075 W

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O R 091134Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3306

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BD, IN

SUBJECT: FONMIN CHAVAN COMMENTS ON BANGLADESH

1. IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 9 WITH SENATOR MCGOVERN, FONMIN CHAVAN OBSERVED THAT GOI WAS INTERESTED IN RETURN OF STABILITY TO BANGLADESH. STABILITY WOULD MEAN THAT DIFFERENT ELENES IN POPULATION WOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER. IF BANGLADESH TRIED TO PROJECT AN ISLAMIC STATE PHILOSOPHY, THE HINDU MINORITY POPULATION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT. INDIA WAS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH. BDG MISSION TO INDIA IN DECEMBER 1975 HAD TOLD INDIANS IT WOULD LOOK TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE BANGLADESH POPULATION AND ASSURED INDIA OF INTENTIONS OF BDG TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOI.

2. CHAVAN CRITICIZED PRESS REPORTING THAT INDIANS WERE BUILDING UP FORCES NEAR THE BANGLADESH BORDER AND INVITED SENATOR MCGOVERN TO GO TO THE BORDER TO SEE FOR HIMSELF. INDIANS SAW THE PROPAGANDA AS "ONE WAY OF MAKING BANGLADESH AN ANTI-INDIAN BASE. THIS IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF PAKISTAN, INDIA
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OR BANGLADESH." US SECRETARY OF STATE HAD TOLD GOI THAT US

POLICY WAS TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDLY INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS.

"WE ARE HAPPY AT THIS."

3. CHAVAN MENTIONED BANGLADESH TRADE DELEGATION HAD JUST ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI FOR TALKS AND CITED THIS AS EXAMPLE OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. "WE WANT THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT BUT LET US NOT ALLOW OTHER FORCES TO INFLUENCE THEIR POLICIES." CHAVAN SAID IT WAS "DIFFICULT TO SAY" WHETHER PRESENT BDG WOULD REMAIN IN POWER. POPTICAL STABILITY HAD STILL NOT BEEN FULLY RESTORED, AND THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PARTIES.

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